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NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE AND FEE(S) DUE

43896 7590 11/18/2009

ECOLAB INC.
MAIL STOP ESC-F7, 655 LONE OAK DRIVE
EAGAN, MN 55121

EXAMINER

DOUYON, LORNA M

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1796

DATE MAILED: 11/18/2009

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/754,491

01/09/2004

David W. Gohl

1847US01

6176

TITLE OF INVENTION: METHOD FOR TREATING LAUNDRY

APPLN. TYPE	SMALL ENTITY	ISSUE FEE DUE	PUBLICATION FEE DUE	PREV. PAID ISSUE FEE	TOTAL FEE(S) DUE	DATE DUE
nonprovisional	NO	\$1510	\$300	\$0	\$1810	02/18/2010

THE APPLICATION IDENTIFIED ABOVE HAS BEEN EXAMINED AND IS ALLOWED FOR ISSUANCE AS A PATENT. PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS CLOSED. THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS. THIS APPLICATION IS SUBJECT TO WITHDRAWAL FROM ISSUE AT THE INITIATIVE OF THE OFFICE OR UPON PETITION BY THE APPLICANT. SEE 37 CFR 1.313 AND MPEP 1308.

THE ISSUE FEE AND PUBLICATION FEE (IF REQUIRED) MUST BE PAID WITHIN THREE MONTHS FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS NOTICE OR THIS APPLICATION SHALL BE REGARDED AS ABANDONED. THIS STATUTORY PERIOD CANNOT BE EXTENDED. SEE 35 U.S.C. 151. THE ISSUE FEE DUE INDICATED ABOVE DOES NOT REFLECT A CREDIT FOR ANY PREVIOUSLY PAID ISSUE FEE IN THIS APPLICATION. IF AN ISSUE FEE HAS PREVIOUSLY BEEN PAID IN THIS APPLICATION (AS SHOWN ABOVE), THE RETURN OF PART B OF THIS FORM WILL BE CONSIDERED A REQUEST TO REAPPLY THE PREVIOUSLY PAID ISSUE FEE TOWARD THE ISSUE FEE NOW DUE.

HOW TO REPLY TO THIS NOTICE:

I. Review the SMALL ENTITY status shown above.

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as YES, verify your current SMALL ENTITY status:

A. If the status is the same, pay the TOTAL FEE(S) DUE shown above.

B. If the status above is to be removed, check box 5b on Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal and pay the PUBLICATION FEE (if required) and twice the amount of the ISSUE FEE shown above, or

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as NO:

A. Pay TOTAL FEE(S) DUE shown above, or

B. If applicant claimed SMALL ENTITY status before, or is now claiming SMALL ENTITY status, check box 5a on Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal and pay the PUBLICATION FEE (if required) and 1/2 the ISSUE FEE shown above.

II. PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL, or its equivalent, must be completed and returned to the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) with your ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). If you are charging the fee(s) to your deposit account, section "4b" of Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal should be completed and an extra copy of the form should be submitted. If an equivalent of Part B is filed, a request to reapply a previously paid issue fee must be clearly made, and delays in processing may occur due to the difficulty in recognizing the paper as an equivalent of Part B.

III. All communications regarding this application must give the application number. Please direct all communications prior to issuance to Mail Stop ISSUE FEE unless advised to the contrary.

IMPORTANT REMINDER: Utility patents issuing on applications filed on or after Dec. 12, 1980 may require payment of maintenance fees. It is patentee's responsibility to ensure timely payment of maintenance fees when due.

PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL

**Complete and send this form, together with applicable fee(s), to: Mail Mail Stop ISSUE FEE
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INSTRUCTIONS: This form should be used for transmitting the ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). Blocks 1 through 5 should be completed where appropriate. All further correspondence including the Patent, advance orders and notification of maintenance fees will be mailed to the current correspondence address as indicated unless corrected below or directed otherwise in Block 1, by (a) specifying a new correspondence address; and/or (b) indicating a separate "FEE ADDRESS" for maintenance fee notifications.

CURRENT CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS (Note: Use Block 1 for any change of address)

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Note: A certificate of mailing can only be used for domestic mailings of the Fee(s) Transmittal. This certificate cannot be used for any other accompanying papers. Each additional paper, such as an assignment or formal drawing, must have its own certificate of mailing or transmission.

ECOLAB INC.
MAIL STOP ESC-F7, 655 LONE OAK DRIVE
EAGAN, MN 55121

Certificate of Mailing or Transmission

I hereby certify that this Fee(s) Transmittal is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage for first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Mail Stop ISSUE FEE address above, or being facsimile transmitted to the USPTO (571) 273-2885, on the date indicated below.

(Depositor's name)
(Signature)
(Date)

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/754,491	01/09/2004	David W. Gohl	1847US01	6176

TITLE OF INVENTION: METHOD FOR TREATING LAUNDRY

APPLN. TYPE	SMALL ENTITY	ISSUE FEE DUE	PUBLICATION FEE DUE	PREV. PAID ISSUE FEE	TOTAL FEE(S) DUE	DATE DUE
nonprovisional	NO	\$1510	\$300	\$0	\$1810	02/18/2010

EXAMINER	ART UNIT	CLASS-SUBCLASS
DOUYON, LORNA M	1796	008-137000

1. Change of correspondence address or indication of "Fee Address" (37 CFR 1.363).

- ☐ Change of correspondence address (or Change of Correspondence Address form PTO/SB/122) attached.
- ☐ "Fee Address" indication (or "Fee Address" Indication form PTO/SB/47; Rev 03-02 or more recent) attached. **Use of a Customer Number is required.**

2. For printing on the patent front page, list

- (1) the names of up to 3 registered patent attorneys or agents OR, alternatively, 1 _____
- (2) the name of a single firm (having as a member a registered attorney or agent) and the names of up to 2 registered patent attorneys or agents. If no name is listed, no name will be printed. 2 _____
- 3 _____

3. ASSIGNEE NAME AND RESIDENCE DATA TO BE PRINTED ON THE PATENT (print or type)

PLEASE NOTE: Unless an assignee is identified below, no assignee data will appear on the patent. If an assignee is identified below, the document has been filed for recordation as set forth in 37 CFR 3.11. Completion of this form is NOT a substitute for filing an assignment.

(A) NAME OF ASSIGNEE (B) RESIDENCE: (CITY and STATE OR COUNTRY)

Please check the appropriate assignee category or categories (will not be printed on the patent) : ☐ Individual ☐ Corporation or other private group entity ☐ Government

4a. The following fee(s) are submitted:

- ☐ Issue Fee
- ☐ Publication Fee (No small entity discount permitted)
- ☐ Advance Order - # of Copies _____

4b. Payment of Fee(s); (Please first reapply any previously paid issue fee shown above)

- ☐ A check is enclosed.
- ☐ Payment by credit card. Form PTO-2038 is attached.
- ☐ The Director is hereby authorized to charge the required fee(s), any deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account Number _____ (enclose an extra copy of this form).

5. Change in Entity Status (from status indicated above)

- ☐ a. Applicant claims SMALL ENTITY status. See 37 CFR 1.27. ☐ b. Applicant is no longer claiming SMALL ENTITY status. See 37 CFR 1.27(g)(2).

NOTE: The Issue Fee and Publication Fee (if required) will not be accepted from anyone other than the applicant; a registered attorney or agent; or the assignee or other party in interest as shown by the records of the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

Authorized Signature _____

Date _____

Typed or printed name _____

Registration No. _____

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.311. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450.

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43896	7590	11/18/2009	EXAMINER	
ECOLAB INC. MAIL STOP ESC-F7, 655 LONE OAK DRIVE EAGAN, MN 55121			DOUYON, LORNA M	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			1796	
DATE MAILED: 11/18/2009				

Determination of Patent Term Adjustment under 35 U.S.C. 154 (b) (application filed on or after May 29, 2000)

The Patent Term Adjustment to date is 234 day(s). If the issue fee is paid on the date that is three months after the mailing date of this notice and the patent issues on the Tuesday before the date that is 28 weeks (six and a half months) after the mailing date of this notice, the Patent Term Adjustment will be 234 day(s).

If a Continued Prosecution Application (CPA) was filed in the above-identified application, the filing date that determines Patent Term Adjustment is the filing date of the most recent CPA.

Applicant will be able to obtain more detailed information by accessing the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) WEB site (<http://pair.uspto.gov>).

Any questions regarding the Patent Term Extension or Adjustment determination should be directed to the Office of Patent Legal Administration at (571)-272-7702. Questions relating to issue and publication fee payments should be directed to the Customer Service Center of the Office of Patent Publication at 1-(888)-786-0101 or (571)-272-4200.

Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/754,491	GOHL ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Lorna M. Douyon	1796	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the amendment filed on July 2, 2009.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1, 2, 10, 11, 14-21.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* Certified copies not received:

3.1. The drawings filed on January 9, 2004 are accepted by the Examiner.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
(a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
(b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____. |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____. |

/Lorna M Douyon/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1796

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Atty. Andrew D. Sorensen on November 5, 2009.

2. The application has been amended as follows:

In the claims:

2.1. In claim 1, line 3, after "thereafter", the following has been added:

--draining at least a portion of the detergent use solution from the laundry washing machine; and thereafter--

2.2. Claims 4, 23-34 have been cancelled.

In the specification:

2.1. On page 8, the paragraph beginning at line 22 (through page 9, line 7) has been replaced with the following:

--The laundry can be treated with a bleaching and antimicrobial composition to provide a desired level of stain removal and microbe removal. The step of treating the laundry with a bleaching and antimicrobial composition can include a pH shift so that during the treatment step, the composition is provided at a first pH that favors bleaching and then provided at a second pH that favors antimicrobial properties, or vice versa. In

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addition, the pH shift can occur as a result of adding additional components to the treatment composition or the components of the treatment composition can themselves cause the pH shift. It should be understood that the reference to a "step" of treating with a bleaching and antimicrobial composition is not intended to exclude addition of a chemical component (such as a pH adjusting agent) to provide a condition shift (such as a pH shift) as part of that step. A washing step can be distinguished from a treatment step when, for example, the washing step includes a draining of the wash liquor followed by addition of the treatment composition even though there is expected or carryover alkalinity or acidity. In the context of the present invention, the treatment step can be considered terminated with the removal of greater than 90% of the maximum water level obtained during the treatment step.--

2.2. On page 9, the paragraph beginning at line 8 (through page 10, line 5) has been replaced with the following (this will correct Applicants' amendment dated June 14, 2006):

--In the context of one embodiment of a laundry washing operation, it is expected that the laundry will undergo a laundry washing step in the presence of a detergent use solution. At least a portion of the detergent use solution can be drained from the laundry prior to the step of treating the laundry with a bleaching and antimicrobial composition. Alternatively, at least a portion of the detergent use solution can be drained from the laundry and the laundry can be rinsed to further remove the detergent use solution from the laundry prior to the step of treating the laundry with a bleaching and antimicrobial composition. Various techniques for washing laundry with a detergent use solution can

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be utilized according to the invention for cleaning laundry prior to the step of treating with a bleaching and antimicrobial composition. The detergent use solution can be an alkaline or an acid detergent use solution. Techniques for acid cleaning are described in German Publication No. DE 101 50 403 A1 that was published on April 30, 2003, the entire disclosure of which is incorporated herein by reference. Additional techniques for acid cleaning are disclosed in U.S. Application Serial No. 10/739,922 (United States Patent Application Publication Number 2005/0137105) that was filed with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on December 18, 2003, the entire disclosure of which is incorporated herein by reference. Various techniques for cleaning that include alkaline cleaning are described in United States Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0162682 that was filed with the United States Patent and Trademark Office on August 28, 2003, and U.S. Patent No. 6,194,371 that was filed on February 7, 2001, the entire disclosures of which is incorporated herein by reference. Additional techniques for cleaning laundry are described in U.S. Application Serial No. 10/600,091 (United States Patent Application Publication Number 2004/0259754) that was filed with the United States Patent and Trademark Office on June 20, 2003, the entire disclosure of which is incorporated herein by reference. In general, it is expected that an alkaline wash refers to a wash that takes place at a pH at between about 7 and about 13, and can include a pH of between about 8 and about 12. In general, it is understood that an acid wash refers to a wash having a pH of between about 1 and about 6, and can refer to a wash having a pH in the range of about 2 to about 4.--

2.3. On page 22, the paragraph beginning at line 18 has been replaced with the following (this will correct Applicants' amendment dated June 14, 2006):

--Carboxylic acids which are generally useful are those having one or two carboxyl groups where the R group is a primary alkyl chain having a length of C₂ to C₁₀, preferably C₂ to C₅ and which are freely water soluble. The primary alkyl chain is that carbon chain of the molecule having the greatest length of carbon atoms and directly appending carboxyl functional groups. Especially useful are mono- and dihydroxy substituted carboxylic acids including alpha-hydroxy substituted carboxylic acid. A preferred carboxylic acid is acetic acid, which produces peroxyacetic acid to increase the sanitizing effectiveness of the materials.--

2.4. On page 22, the paragraph beginning at line 26 has been replaced with the following (this will correct Applicants' amendment dated June 14, 2006 and March 13, 2007):

--An exemplary peroxy-carboxylic acid composition that can be used according to the invention includes medium chain peroxy-carboxylic compositions such as those containing peroxyoctanoic acid compositions. Exemplary medium chain peroxy-carboxylic acid compositions that can be used include those described in U.S. Application Serial No.10/754426 (attorney docket number 163.1801 US01) (United States Publication Number 2005/0152991) that was filed with the United States Patent and Trademark Office on January 9, 2004, the entire disclosure of which is incorporated herein by reference.--

STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The claims in their present amended forms have overcome each of Heinlein, Lindner and McKechnie, the closest prior art of record, because none of them teaches, disclose or suggests the method of treating laundry in an industrial laundry washing machine in the manner as those specifically recited, in particular, the sequential alkaline wash, followed by draining at least a portion of the use solution, followed by applying a bleaching/antimicrobial agent at the recited acidic pH, followed by an alkaline wash with the addition of a pH adjusting agent as recited in the claims. Even though Heinlein teaches the wetting of the dirty wash at first slightly alkaline to saturate the fibers and protein stains prior to the acid bath (see col. 5, lines 15-21), Heinlein fails to teach washing the laundry in an industrial laundry washing machine as required in claim 1, and the draining of at least a portion of the use solution prior to the acid bath. Linder, the other close prior art of record, even though teaching introducing the acid and alkaline in any desired ordinal sequence as disclosed in col. 7, lines 8-15, Lindner also fails to disclose the recited steps, in particular, the draining step prior to step (b), which is the acid treatment. McKechnie, another close prior art, even though teaching the composition changing from alkaline to acidic and back to alkaline on page 10, lines 29 to page 11, line 3, McKechnie also fails to disclose the recited steps, in particular, the draining step prior to step (b), which is the acid treatment.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably

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accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Lorna M. Douyon whose telephone number is 571-272-1313. The examiner can normally be reached on Mondays-Fridays 8:00AM-4:30PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Harold Pyon can be reached on 571-272-1498. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Lorna M Douyon/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1796